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SLACKNESS. *n. f.* [from *slack*.]

1. Looseness; not tightness.

2. Negligence; inattention; remissness.

It concerneth the duty of the church by law to provide, that the looseness and slackness of men may not cause the commandments of God to be unexecuted.

These thy offices,

So rarely kind, are as interpreters

Of my behind-hand slackness.

From man's effeminate slackness it begins,

Who should better hold his place

By wisdom, and superior gifts receiv'd.

3. Want of tendency.

When they have no disposition to shoot out above their lips, there is a slackness to heal, and a cure is very difficultly effected.

4. Weakness; not force; not intenceness.

Through the slackness of motion, or long banishment from the air, it might gather some aptness to putrefy.

SLAG. *n. f.* The dross or recrement of metal.

Not only the calces but the glass of metal may be of differing colours from the natural colour of the metal, as I have observed about the glass or slag of copper.

SLAIE. *n. f.* A weaver's reed.SLAIN. The participle passive of *slay*.

The slain of the Lord shall be many.

Fought all his battles o'er again;

And thrice he routed all his foes, and thrice he slew the slain.

To SLAKE. *v. a.* [from *slack*, *Skinner*; from *slack*, *Islandick*, to quench, *Mr. Lye*.]

1. To quench; to extinguish.

He did always strive Himself with selves to health for to restore, And slake the heavenly fire that rag'd evermore.

If I digg'd up thy forefathers graves, And hung their rotten coffins up in chains,

It could not slake mine ire, nor ease my heart.

His spirits, the sparks of life, and chills his heart.

A lambent flame arose, which gently spread

Around his brows, and on his temples fed:

Amaz'd, with running water we prepare

To quench the sacred fire, and slake his hair.

The fragrant fruit from bending branches shake,

And with the crystal stream their thirst at pleasure slake.

Coarse are his meals, the fortune of the chase;

Amidst the running stream he slakes his thirst.

2. It is used of lime, so that it is uncertain whether the original notion of *To slack* or *slake* lime be to powder or quench it.

That which he saw happened to be fresh lime, and gathered before any rain had fallen to slake it.

To SLAKE. *v. n.* [This is apparently from *slack*.] To grow less tense; to be relaxed.

If the body's nature did partake,

Her strength would with the body's strength decay;

But when the body's strongest sinews slake,

Then is the soul most active, quick, and gay.

To SLAM. *v. a.* [from *slama*, *Islandick*; *schlagen*, *Dutch*.] To slaughter; to crush. A word not used but in low conversation.To SLANDER. *v. a.* [from *slaudrie*, *French*; *scandalum*, *Latin*.] To censure falsely; to belie.

Slander Valentine

With falsehood, cowardice, and poor descent.

He hath slandered thy servant unto the king.

Give me leave to speak as earnestly in truly commending it, as you have done in untruly and unkindly defacing and slandering it.

Thou do'st with lies the throne invade,

By practice harden'd in thy slandering trade;

Obtending heav'n for what'er ills befall,

And putt'ring under specious names thy gall.

Of all her dears she never slander'd one,

But cares not if a thousand are undone.

SLANDER. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. False invective.

When slanders do not live in tongues;

When cut-purles come not to throngs.

Since that, we hear he is in arms,

We think not so;

Yet charge the consul with our harms,

That let him go:

So in our censure of the state

We still do wander,

And make the careful magistrate

The mark of slander.

2. Disgrace; reproach.

Thou slander of thy heavy mother's womb!

Thou loathed issue of thy father's loins.

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3. Disreputation; ill name.

You shall not find me, daughter,

After the slander of most step-mothers,

Ill-ey'd unto you.

SLANDERER. *n. f.* [from *slander*.] One who belies another; one who lays false imputations on another.

In your servants suffer any offence against yourself rather than against God: endure not that they should be railers or slanderers, tell-tales or sowers of dissension.

Thou shalt answer for this, thou slanderer.

SLANDEROUS. *adj.* [from *slander*.]

1. Uttering reproachful falsehoods.

What king so strong

Can tie the gall up in the slanderous tongue?

To me belongs

The care to shun the blast of slanderous tongues:

Let malice, prone the virtuous to defame,

Thus with vile censure taint my spotless name.

2. Containing reproachful falsehoods; calumnious.

I was never able till now to choke the mouth of such detractors, with the certain knowledge of their slanderous untruths.

We lay these honours on this man,

To ease ourselves of divers slanderous loads.

As by flattery a man opens his bosom to his mortal enemy,

So by detraction and a slanderous misreport he shuts the same to his best friends.

SLANDEROUSLY. *adv.* [from *slandereus*.] Calumniously; with false reproach.

I may the better satisfy them who object these doubts, and slanderously bark at the courtes which are held against that traitorous earl and his adherents.

They did slanderously object,

How that they durst not hazard to present

In person their defences.

SLANG. The preterite of *sling*.

David sang a stone, and smote the Philistine.

SLANK. *n. f.* An herb.SLANT. *adj.* [from *slanghe*, a serpent, *Dutch*.] *Skinner*.SLANTING. *adj.* Oblique; not direct; not perpendicular.

Late the clouds

Juffling, or push'd with winds, rude in their shock,

Tine the slant lightning; whose thwart flame driv'n down,

Kindles the gummy bark of air and pine.

The sun round the globe describes the equator line,

By which wife means he can the whole survey

With a direct or with a slanting ray,

In the succession of a night and day.

SLANTLY. *adv.* [from *slant*.] Obliquely; not perpendicularly.SLANTWISE. *adv.* cularly; slope.

Some maketh a hollowness half a foot deep,

With fower sets in it, set slantwise asleep.

SLAP. *n. f.* [from *schlap*, *German*.] A blow. Properly with the hand open, or with something rather broad than sharp.

The laugh, the slap, the jocular curse go round.

SLAP. *adv.* [from the noun.] With a sudden and violent blow.

Peg's servants complained; and if they offered to come into the warehouse, then strait went the yard slap over their noddle.

To SLAP. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To strike with a slap.

Dick, who thus long had passive fat,

Here stroak'd his chin, and cock'd his hat;

Then slapp'd his hand upon the board,

And thus the youth put in his word.

SLAPDASH. *interj.* [from *slap* and *dash*.] All at once: as any thing broad falls with a slap into the water, and dashes it about.

A low word.

And yet, slapdash, is all again

In ev'ry finew, nerve, and vein.

To SLASH. *v. a.* [from *slasa*, to strike, *Islandick*.]

1. To cut; to cut with long cuts.

2. To lash. *Slash* is improper.

Daniel, a sprightly swain, that us'd to slash

The vigorous steeds that drew his lord's calash,

To Peggy's side inclin'd.

To SLASH. *v. n.* To strike at random with a sword; to lay about him.

The knights with their bright burning blades

Broke their rude troops, and orders did confound,

Hewing and slashing at their idle shades.

Not that I'd lop the beauties from his book,

Like slashing Bentley with his desperate hook.

SLASH. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. Cut; wound.

Some few received some cuts and slashes that had drawn blood.

2. A cut in cloth.

What! this a sleeve?

Here's snip and nip, and cut, and slash and slash,

Like to a censor in a barber's shop.

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Distinguish'd slashes deck the great,

As each excels in birth or state:

His oylet-holes are more and ampler;

The king's own body was a fampler.

SLATCH. *n. f.* [A sea term.] The middle part of a rope or cable that hangs down loose.SLATE. *n. f.* [from *slit*: *slate* is in some counties a crack; or from *sciate*, a tile, *French*.] A grey fossil stone, easily broken into thin plates, which are used to cover houses, or to write upon.

A square cannot be so truly drawn upon a slate as it is conceived in the mind.

A small piece of a flat slate the ants laid over the hole of their nest, when they forelaw it would rain.

To SLATE. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To cover the roof; to tile.

Sonnets and elegies to Chloris,

Would raise a house about two stories;

A lyrick ode would slate.

SLATER. *n. f.* [from *slate*.] One who covers with slates or tiles.SLATERN. *n. f.* [from *slatti*, *Swedish*.] A woman negligent; not elegant or nice.

Without the raising of which sum,

You dare not be so troublesome

To pinch the slatterns black and blue,

For leaving you their work to do.

We may always observe, that a gossip in politics is a slattern in her family.

The fallow skin is for the swarthy put,

And low can make a slattern of a slut.

Beneath the lamp her tawdry ribbons glare,

The new-scour'd mantleau and the slattern air.

SLATY. *adj.* [from *slate*.] Having the nature of slate.

All the stone that is slaty, with a texture long, and parallel to the line of the stratum, will split only lengthways, or horizontally; and, if placed in any other position, 'tis apt to give way, start, and burst, when any considerable weight is laid upon it.

SLAVE. *n. f.* [from *slave*, *French*.] It is said to have its original from the *slavi*, or *Slavonians*, subdued and sold by the *Venetians*. One mancipiated to a master; not a freeman; a dependant.

The banish'd Kent, who in disguise

Follow'd his enemy king, and did him service

Improper for a slave.

Thou elvish markt, abortive, rooting hog!

Thou that wast seal'd in thy nativity

The slave of nature, and the son of hell.

Of guests he makes them slaves

Inhospitably.

Slaves to our passions we become, and then

It grows impossible to govern men.

The condition of servants was different from what it is now, they being generally slaves, and such as were bought and sold for money.

Perspective a painter must not want; yet without subsisting ourselves to wholly to it, as to become slaves of it.

To-morrow, should we thus express our friendship,

Each might receive a slave into his arms:

This fun perhaps, this morning sun's the last;

That e'er shall rise on Roman liberty.

To SLAVE. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To drudge; to toil; to toil.

Had women been the makers of our laws,

The men should have at cards from morn to night.

SLAVER. *n. f.* [from *salvare*, *Latin*; *slava*, *Islandick*.] Spittle running from the mouth; drivell.

Mathiolus hath a passage, that a toad communicates its venom not only by urine, but by the humidity and slaver of its mouth, which will not consist with truth.

Of all mad creatures, if the leam'd are right,

It is the slaver kills, and not the bite.

To SLAVER. *v. n.* [from the noun.]

1. To be smeared with spittle.

Should I

Slaver with lips, as common as the stairs

That mount the capitol; join gripes with hands

Made hard with hourly falsehood as with labour.

2. To emit spittle.

Miso came with scowling eyes to deliver a slaving good-morrow to the two ladies.

Why must he putter, spawl, and slaver it,

In vain, against the people's fav'rite?

To SLAVER. *v. a.* To smear with drivell.

Twitche'd by the slave he mouths it more and more,

'Till with white froth his gown is slaver'd o'er.

SLAVERER. *n. f.* [from *slavaard*, *Dutch*; from *slaver*.] One who cannot hold his spittle; a driveller; an idiot.SLAVERY. *n. f.* [from *slave*.] Servitude; the condition of a slave; the offices of a slave.

If my dissentings were out of error, weakness, or obstinacy in me, yet no man can think it other than the badge and

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method of slavery, by savage rudeness and importunate obtrusions of violence to have the milt of his error dispelled.

SLAUGHTER. *n. f.* [from *slauht*, *Saxon*, from *slagan*, *slagan*, to strike or kill.] Massacre; destruction by the sword.

Sinful Macduff,

They were all struck for thee!

Not for their own demerits, but for mine,

Fell slaughter on their souls.

On each hand slaughter and gigantic deeds.

The pair you see,

Now friends below, in close embraces join;

But when they leave the shady realms of night,

With mortal heat each other shall pursue:

What wars, what wounds, what slaughter shall ensue?

To SLAUGHTER. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To massacre; to slay; to kill with the sword.

Your cattle is surpriz'd, your wife and babes

Savagely slaughter'd.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE. *n. f.* [from *slaughter* and *house*.] House in which beasts are killed for the butcher.

Away with me, all you whose souls abhor

Th' uncleanly favour of a slaughterhouse;

For I am stiff'd with the smell of sin.

SLAUGHTERMAN. *n. f.* [from *slaughter* and *man*.] One employed in killing.

The mad mothers with their howls confus'd

Do break the clouds; as did the wives of Jewry,

At Herod's bloody hunting slaughtermen.

Ten chas'd by one,

Are now each one the slaughterman of twenty.

See, thou fight'st against thy countrymen;

And join't with them, will be thy slaughtermen.

SLAUGHTEROUS. *adj.* [from *slaughter*.] Destructive; murderous.

I have sapt full with horrors:

Direness familiar to my slaughterous thoughts

Cannot once start me.

SLAVISH. *adj.* [from *slave*.] Servile; mean; base; dependant.

A thing

More slavish did I ne'er, than answering

A slave without a knock.

You have among you many a purchas'd slave,

Which, like your asses, and your dogs and mules,

You use in abject and in slavish part,

Because you bought them.

I believe

That he, the supreme God, 't' whom all things ill

Are but as slavish officers of vengeance,

Would send a glitt'ring guardian, if need were,

To keep my life and honour unassail'd.

Those are the labour'd births of slavish brains;

Not the effect of poetry, but pains.

Slavish bards our mutual loves rehearse

In lying strains and ignominious verse.

SLAVISHLY. *adv.* [from *slavish*.] Servilely; meanly.SLAVISHNESS. *n. f.* [from *slavish*.] Servility; meanness.To SLAY. *v. a.* preter. *slaw*; part. pass. *slain*. [from *slagan*, *Gothick*; *slan*, *Sax*. *slachten*, *Dutch*, to strike.] To kill; to butcher; to put to death.

Her father's brother

Would be her lord; or shall I say her uncle?

Or he that slew her brothers and her uncle?

Tyrant, shew thy face:

If thou be'st slain, and with no stroke of mine;

My wife and children's ghosts will haunt me still.

The deadly-handed Clifford slew my steed.

I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God.

Thus there was killing of young and old, and slaying of virgins and infants.

Slay and make ready.

Wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one.